



## Unit 174 January 2024 Newsletter



This month's newsletter includes the sections listed below:

### **President's Message**

### **New Members and Rank Advancements**

### **Member Profile Happy Holidays**

### **Unit News**

- Coming Tournaments**
- 2024 Unit Charity**
- 2024 Lone Star Regional**
- 2024 Lone Star Regional Revised Game Schedule**
- Online Event at Lone Star Regional**
- 2024 Lone Star Regional Event Naming**
- 99er Nite Club**
- 199er Nite Club**
- 2023 Club Table Counts**

### **Club News**

- Apple Clubs**
- Bridge Academy of West Houston**
- Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH)**
- Choose Houston - Basic Online Schedule**
- Clear Lake Bridge Club (CLBC)**
- Cypress Northwest DBC & Katy DBC**
- Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club - Sugar Land**
- Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club**
- Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club (LCDBC)**
- Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC)**
- Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club**
- Spring Branch Duplicate Bridge Club**
- Star Duplicate Bridge Club**

### **Contributors**

- Thomas Rush - Did You Know about Slam Invite?**

### **In Memoriam**

### **From the Editor**

Please visit the Unit 174 [Website](#) to view additional information about the activities in our Unit and at our Clubs.



## **President's Message**

**Karen  
Nussbaum**

It is hard to believe the crazy busy holiday time of the year is almost over! It comes and goes around so fast! Between religious ceremonies, parties and family time it was probably hectic for all. And just like the holidays, our 2024 Lone Star Regional (LSR) tournament will be here, so get your partnerships and teams lined up. It promises to be our best one yet! There are some changes to keep in mind.

The first game is Monday, January 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. This is a new start time for us. Wednesday will be Future Live Master Day, and we have added a 0-20 game to encourage our newbies to play and be comfortable. Thursday will be the luncheon for the volunteers, so all chairs and their helpers mark your calendars. Friday will be the ToY (Teacher of the Year) Day. We moved this event to lunch time and will be providing a hot dog lunch with all the "fixins and trimmins!" The other change we implemented is that the complimentary ACBL entry labels can be preordered. Susan Banks-Johnson has graciously taken on this job, and the info to preorder is on the flyer.

If you are thinking about becoming a bridge teacher, now is your chance! The renowned Patty Tucker will be at the tournament to teach the Best Practices Teacher Workshop on Saturday, January 20 and Sunday, January 21, the weekend before LSR starts. The best part is that the cost is only \$50.00! That is the best rate you will find anywhere, at any NABC or regional because our own Betty Starzec, District 16 President, is subsidizing a large portion of the cost for us. Certification fee is \$25.00.

Spaces are still available for the LSR Event Naming. It is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or friend who has passed away, or to honor someone special in your life.

We are also starting to plan the April Election Sectional, with an almost complete slate of great candidates! Peaches Eads has been working diligently to complete the roster. An announcement is forthcoming.

On behalf of Board of Directors we hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday. Happy New Year to all.

Karen Nussbaum  
[Karenunit174@gmail.com](mailto:Karenunit174@gmail.com)



## **New Members and Rank Advancement**



### **New Members**

ACBL notifies us each month about the members new to our Unit and those who transferred into our Unit. Please welcome the following players to our Unit:

**New Members:** Can P Berktas, Suzy Carroll, L C Gaskill, Marne B Lagrasta, Marti Marshall, Mary Jane Naquin, Jenella Smith

**Transfers:** Jeffrey J Brown, Mrs. Margaret R Crider, Mr. Steven I Givot, Mrs. Jann T Sharp

***Welcome!***



## Rank Advancements

Listed below are the Unit 174 Masterpoint Milestones reported by ACBL as of December 1, 2023. An explanation of ranks may be found on the [ACBL website](#).

### Junior Master

Eric Cheng, Giorgio A Drugovich, George W Edwards, Joe Edwards, Joan Land,  
Dk K Medlin, Shangyou S Nie, Eric Sachs, Frances C Tarbett

### Club Master

Margaret R Curlet, Bob Driskell, James F Helms, Fred Infortunio, Ms. Arlene Phillips, Dennis D Sucec

### Regional Master

Mr. Jim H Gosnell, Mariah Stopper

### NABC Master

Robert C Domsalla, Mr. Alan Schaefer

### Advanced NABC Master

Hua Chen

### Life Master

Ms. Charlotte M Howell, Ms. Judith G Rebmann

### Bronze Life Master

Ms. Judith G Rebmann, Paul Shack

### Silver Life Master

Mrs. Myrna J Dorman, Mark Incerto, Billy Tiger

### Ruby Life Master

Mrs. Donna M Hrachovy

### Sapphire Life Master

Mr. William F Lindner, Mr. Hans Strohmer, Mr. Joseph S Volanski

### Diamond Life Master

Mr. Bill Gemas

**!!! Congratulations !!!**

## Member Profile



If you know of someone we'd all like to get to learn about, please email: [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).



## Unit News

## Coming Tournaments

Date	City	State	Unit	Category	Type
Jan 4-7	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
Jan 11-14	San Antonio	TX	172	Sectional	Open
Jan 13-14	San Antonio	TX	D16	GNT/NAP	2023-2024 Finals
Jan 22-28	Houston	TX	174	Regional	Open
Feb 1-4	San Miguel	JA	254	Sectional	Open
Feb 3-4	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	I/N
Feb 8-11	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Feb 8-11	Aijic [Chapala]	JA	205	Sectional	Open
Feb 9-11	Fort Worth	TX	183	Sectional	Open
Feb 21-24	Dallas	TX	176	Sectional	Open
Feb 27- Mar 3	San Miguel de Allende	GJ	173	Regional	Open
Feb 29- Mar 2	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Feb 29- Mar 3	Austin	TX	207	Sectional	Open
Apr 5-7	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Apr 18-21	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Jun 7-9	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Jun 10-16	D16		All	Sectional	STaC
June 20-23	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Aug 8-11	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Sep 19-22	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N
Oct 25-27	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	Open
Nov 4-10	Houston	TX	174	Sectional	StaC
Nov 14-17	Spring [Houston]	TX	174	Sectional	I/N

You can find tournament information by clicking [ACBL Tourneys](#).

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## 2024 Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional

# The Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional Jan 22-28, 2024



**Be Scent-sitive**  
*this is a fragrance-free tournament*  
*No offensive odors*

Sunday lunch  
 provided with  
 two session entry!



**HOUSTON MARRIOTT WESTCHASE**  
 2900 Briarpark Dr., Houston TX 77042  
 (713) 978-7400  
**Room Rate: \$129.00**  
*Click here to book your group rate.*  
*Contact Dave Becker if problems occur*  
**Cutoff Date: Jan 5, 2024 or until block filled**

**Complementary ACBL entry labels**  
*(with your name and ACBL #)*  
 Click here for form to pre-order or email  
 Susan Banks-Johnson @ sisbjohnson@gmail.com

**Best Practices Teacher Workshop**  
*Registration fee \$50*  
*Certification fee is an optional \$25*  
  
 Sat/Sun - Jan 20/21  
 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 For information or to register  
 Sarah Springer - (281) 904-5791  
 sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com

**Tournament Chairs**  
 Karen Nussbaum  
 (832) 524-5233  
 Karenunit174@gmail.com  
 Sarah Springer (281) 904-5791 sarahspringerbridge@gmail.com  
 Dave Becker (214) 274-2978 dbecker03@hotmail.com

**Hospitality**  
 Hallie Eads (713) 569-7700 HallieEads@aol.com  
 Patti Mullendore (713) 467-1026 chmullendore@msn.com

**Event Naming** Jane Armstrong (281) 798-3342 littlebit9@comcast.net  
**Intermediate/Newcomer** Janice Hardcastle (832) 643-1704 janice\_hardcastle@hotmail.com

**Cashless Tournament** - credit cards only  
*Purchase in Advance with Entry Express*  
<https://tournaments.acbl.org>  
**Table Fees** (per session)  
 Monday thru Friday \$15  
 Saturday (\$1 for NABC) \$16  
 Sunday (lunch included w/2 session entry) \$18  
*\$4 more for lapsed member*

**Partnership**  
 Harry Selldin (713) 899-3163 hselldin@me.com  
 Antoun Henri (832) 659-2310 antounhenri@gmail.com

**LSR Speakers**  
 Mon-Sat at 2:00  
 

*Please note new schedule change.  
1st game will be Monday at 10:00 am.*

**Future Life Master Games**  
*(Single session)*

**299er Pairs**  
Mon – Sat: 10:00 & 2:30  
Sun: 9:30 & TBA

**99er Pairs**  
Tue 10:00 & 2:30

Session and overall awards will be **red** points

**0-750 Gold Rush Schedule**  
*(Double session - Gold & Red points)*  
*(Single session - Red points)*

Mon – Sat: 10:00 & 2:30

**Pair Games**  
*(Double session unless noted)*

**MON/WED/FRI – JANUARY 22/24/26**

A/X/Y Pairs ..... 10:00 & 2:30  
Morning Side Pair Series *(Single session\*)* ..... 10:00  
Afternoon Side Pair Series *(Single session\*)* ..... 2:30  
Evening Side Pair Series *(Single session\*)* ..... 7:00

**TUE/THU/SAT – JANUARY 23/25/27**

A/X Pairs ..... 10:00 & 2:30  
Mid-flight Pairs ..... 10:00 & 2:30  
Morning Side Pair Series *(Single session\*)* ..... 10:00  
Afternoon Side Pair Series *(Single session\*)* ..... 2:30  
Evening Side Pair Series *(Single session\*)* ..... 7:00

*(These games may be merged into the double session games at the director's discretion, but a player may still choose to play a single session)*

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 27**

LSR On-Line Pairs ..... 10:00 & 2:30  
*(Instructions on Unit 174 website)*

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 28**

A/X/Y Pairs ..... 9:30 & TBA  
Side Pairs *(Single sessions\*)* ..... 9:30 & TBA

**Team Games**  
*(Double session)*

**MON - SAT – JANUARY 22-27**

Bracketed Teams ..... 10:00 & 2:30

**TUE/WED – JANUARY 23/24**

Mini-Soloway *(2 day, 4 sessions)* ..... 10:00 & 2:30  
Handicapped Swiss *(2 sessions)* ..... 7:00

**THU/FRI – JANUARY 25/26**

Mini-Soloway *(2 day, 4 sessions\*)* ..... 10:00 & 2:30  
*(\*at director's discretion)*  
Handicapped Swiss *(2 sessions)* ..... 7:00

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 28**

A/X Swiss Teams ..... 9:30 & TBA  
Bracketed Teams ..... 9:30 & TBA  
*(No player with > 3000 MPs)*

**STRATIFICATION & FLIGHTING**

A/X Pairs ..... A: 5000+ X: 0-5000  
A/X/Y Pairs ..... A: 5000+ X: 2000-5000 Y: 0-2000  
Mid-flight Pairs ..... B: 1500-3000 Y: 0-1500  
Gold Rush Pairs ..... C: 300-750 Z: 0-300  
Side Pairs ..... A: 3000+ B: 750-3000 C: 0-750  
299er ..... A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100  
99er ..... A: 50-100 B: 20-50 C: 0-20  
*Strats may vary at the director's discretion*

Bracketed Teams ..... grouped by average MP  
A/X Swiss ..... A: 4000+ X: 0-4000  
Sunday Bracketed Teams ..... B: 0-3000  
*No player with > 3000 MPs*

*Team or pair average used for all stratified events*

**DAILY START TIMES**

Monday - Saturday ..... 10:00 & 2:30 & 7:00  
Sunday ..... 9:30 AM & TBA

## 2024 Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional Revised Game Schedule

Lone Star Regional 2024

Revised Game Schedule

**Please Note:** Entry Express is not available for this Tournament.

**Monday, January 22, 2024**

*Pairs Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
ACBL Charity Fund	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
A/X	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mid-Flight (No player over 3000 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Gold Rush (No player over 750 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
99er (No player over 100 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
299er (No player over 300 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.

*Teams Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Open Bracketed Swiss	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

*Pairs Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Morning Side Pairs	1 (Session 1 of 5)	10:00 a.m.
A/X	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mid-Flight (No player over 3000 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Gold Rush (No player over 750 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
99er (No player over 100 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
299er (No player over 300 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
Afternoon Side Pairs	1 (Session 1 of 5)	2:30 p.m.
Evening Side Pairs	1 (Session 2 of 5)	7:00 p.m.

*Teams Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Open Bracketed Swiss	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mini-Soloway Knockout	1 & 2 of 4	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Handicapped Swiss	1 of 2 (Session 2 on Wednesday)	7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024***Pairs Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
0-20	1	10:00 a.m.
Morning Side Pairs	1 (Session 2 of 5)	10:00 a.m.
A/X	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mid-Flight (No player over 3000 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Gold Rush (No player over 750 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
99er (No player over 100 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
299er (No player over 300 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
Afternoon Side Pairs	1 (Session 2 of 5)	2:30 p.m.
Evening Side Pairs	1 (Session 2 of 5)	7:00 p.m.

*Teams Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Open Bracketed Swiss	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mini-Soloway Knockout	2 (Sessions 3 & 4 of 4)	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Handicapped Swiss	1 (Session 2 of 2)	7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 25, 2024***Pairs Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Morning Side Pairs	1 (Session 3 of 5)	10:00 a.m.
A/X	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mid-Flight (No player over 3000 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Gold Rush (No player over 750 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
99er (No player over 100 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
299er (No player over 300 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
Afternoon Side Pairs	1 (Session 3 of 5)	2:30 p.m.
Evening Side Pairs	1 (Session 3 of 5)	7:00 p.m.

*Teams Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Open Bracketed Swiss	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mini-Soloway Knockout	2 (Sessions 1 & 2 of 4)	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Handicapped Swiss	1 (Session 2 on Friday)	7:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 26, 2024***Pairs Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
0-20	1	10:00 a.m.
Morning Side Pairs	1 (Session 4 of 5)	10:00 a.m.
A/X	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mid-Flight (No player over 3000 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Gold Rush (No player over 750 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
99er (No player over 100 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
299er (No player over 300 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
Afternoon Side Pairs	1 (Session 4 of 5)	2:30 p.m.
Evening Side Pairs	1 (Session 4 of 5)	7:00 p.m.

*Teams Events:*

Event	Sessions	Times
Open Bracketed Swiss	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Mini-Soloway Knockout	2 (Sessions 3 & 4 of 4)	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Handicapped Swiss	1 (Session 2 of 2)	7:00 p.m.



## Saturday, January 27, 2024

### Pairs Events:

Event	Sessions	Times
Morning Side	1 (Session 5 of 5)	10:00 a.m.
A/X	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
LSR Online (BBO) Open (Restricted to District 16 members)	2	10:45 a.m. & 2:15 p.m.
Mid-Flight (No player over 3000 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Gold Rush (No player over 750 MPs.)	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
99er (No player over 100 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
299er (No player over 300 MPs.)	1	10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
Afternoon Side Pairs	1 (Session 4 of 5)	2:30 p.m.
Evening Side Pairs	1 (Session 4 of 5)	7:00 p.m.

### Teams Events:

Event	Sessions	Times
Open Bracketed Swiss	2	10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

## Sunday, January 28, 2024

### Pairs Events:

Event	Sessions	Times
A/X/Y	2	9:30 a.m. & TBA
Side Pairs	1	9:30 a.m., TBA

### Swiss Teams Events:

Event	Sessions	Times
0-3000 Bracketed	2	9:30 a.m. & TBA
A/X	2	9:30 a.m. & TBA

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## 2024 Houston Unit 174 Online Lone Star Regional Event

Unit 174 will be hosting a two-session ONLINE PAIR GAME Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Sign up for the game by logging into BBO and registering for the event. Payment will be made with BBO\$ and all players must be in District 16. The table fee is \$12.00 /session.

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## 2024 Houston Unit 174 Lone Star Regional Event Naming

# LONE STAR REGIONAL EVENT NAMING OPPORTUNITY

JANUARY 2024



*The Lone Star Regional provides an excellent opportunity to recognize deserving Unit 174 members or memorialize those who have left us by naming an event after that person.*

*Please ask Jane Armstrong for details.  
281-798-3342 [littlebit9@comcast.net](mailto:littlebit9@comcast.net)*

*Opportunities are available between \$75 to \$7,500.  
(Price list on reverse page)*



2024 Lone Star Regional Naming Event

Sponsor for the Entire Tournament	\$7,500
All games on a day (excluding 0-5 pair games)	\$1,000
Sponsoring promotional gifts for hospitality (with sponsor name on it)	\$1,000
Mini Soloway 2 day teams game	\$400
0-5 Pairs Games (package-includes all)	\$200
Gold Rush Pairs Double-session (Monday thru Saturday at daily rate)	\$200
Mid-Flight double-session Pairs (Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday at daily rate)	\$200
A/X Pairs double-session(Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday)	\$200
A/X/Y Pairs double-session(Wednesday, Friday or Sunday)	\$200
Bracketed Swiss Teams 1 day, 2-session (Monday-Sunday)	\$200
Sunday A/X Swiss	\$200
Charity Fund Pairs single session	\$125
Future Life Master	\$125
Morning/Afternoon/Evening Side Pairs single-session	\$125
Sponsoring Candy for Hospitality per day	\$100
Sunday Side Games single-sessions	\$75

If an entire day is named, then all events on that day will be included along with the Side Games, FLM games, Gold Rush Pairs and Swiss Teams games. Games spanning over two days will not be included in entire day naming.

The 0-5 games package is being offered for all 0-5 games that are not included in another purchase. Purchaser must provide a writeup about the honoree of about 100 words, and a photo. There will be a poster with pictures of the honorees at the game that day, and the writeup and photo will be in that day's bulletin. Sponsoring corporate or other promotional gifts for Tournament Hospitality will be handled on an Individual basis.

Please ask Jane Armstrong for details.  
281-798-3342 [littlebit9@comcast.net](mailto:littlebit9@comcast.net)

If you are interested in naming an event, please email [Jane Armstrong](mailto:jane@99er.com).

**99er Nite Club**



## 199er Nite Club



## Club Table Counts

Unit 174 has many ACBL-sanctioned clubs so that means many games both Face-to-Face and Online. The following information might be interesting:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Table Count</u>	<u>Number of Clubs in Unit 174</u>
2019	32,137.00	30
2020	30,122.50	50
2021	29,241.50	24
2022	19,285.50	24
2023	16,055.50	25

The 25 clubs in the unit have played a total of 16,055.50 tables since January 1, 2023. Besides an online-only club in District 16, there are 109 clubs that place face-to-face.

The following lists the clubs from highest to lowest and also includes where they rank in District 16:

1. Clear Lake Bridge Club - 3754.50 tables (1<sup>st</sup> in District)
2. Bridge Club of Houston - 2319.00 tables (5<sup>th</sup> in District)
3. Bridge Academy of West Houston - 2183.50 tables (6<sup>th</sup> in District)
4. Lone Star Bridge Club - 1361.50 tables (11<sup>th</sup> in District)
5. Apple II DBC - 972.50 tables (17<sup>th</sup> in District)
6. Apple DBC - 798.00 tables (20<sup>th</sup> in District)
7. Star DBC - 666.0 tables (25<sup>th</sup> in District)
8. Ft. Bend - 514.00 tables (30<sup>th</sup> in District)
9. Kingwood DBC - 502.00 tables (32<sup>nd</sup> in District)
10. Cypress NW DBC - 404.00 tables (35<sup>th</sup> in District)
11. Lake Conroe DBC - 360.00 tables (40<sup>th</sup> in District)
12. Spring Branch Duplicate - 311.50 tables (45<sup>th</sup> in District)
13. Pebble Creek DBC - 233.00 tables (56<sup>th</sup> in District)
14. Houston Racket Club - 195.50 tables (63<sup>rd</sup> in District)
15. Galveston Unit 174 - 193.00 tables (64<sup>th</sup> in District)
16. Gulf Coast DBC - 171.00 tables (70<sup>th</sup> in District)
17. Katy Duplicate Bridge - 160.50 tables (73<sup>rd</sup> in District)
18. Sugar Land Bridge - 159.50 (74<sup>th</sup> in District)
19. Galveston DBC - 143.50 tables (76<sup>th</sup> in District)
20. Forest Club - 137.50 tables (77<sup>th</sup> in District)
21. La Grange Bridge Club - 134.00 tables (79<sup>th</sup> in District)
22. Houston Country Club - 105.00 tables (84<sup>th</sup> in District)
22. Lakeside Country Club - 105.00 tables (84<sup>th</sup> in District)
23. Les Match Bridgeurs - 93.50 (86<sup>th</sup> in District)
24. River Oaks Country Club - 78.00 (92<sup>nd</sup> in District)

Will your club move up in 2024?

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## Club News

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Below please find the information reported by some of the clubs in our unit. Please send your club news to: [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Additional information about all of the clubs can be found on the [Unit 174 website](#). Or, click a club name to jump to their website.

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## Apple Clubs

Our games begin at 11:30 a.m. sharp at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr. 77042. Please plan to arrive by 11:15 a.m. All games are \$3/person.

### **New Clubs' Policy:**

APPLE clubs' (Susan and Brigitte) have agreed to let members of the board play free with a FLM that has less than 50 points.

*APPLE II has raised the offer:* Any player who pairs up with someone under 100 points plays for *FREE!* Since many of your FLM's didn't take advantage of playing with a board member, the club is offering *FREE* plays to pairs that average less than 200 points! What a DEAL!

For information, please contact:

Monday - Apple - Susan Johnson

[sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com) - 281-536-1451

Friday - Apple II - Brigitte Sandifer  
[sandiferdb@gmail.com](mailto:sandiferdb@gmail.com) - 281-494-1464

Results and additional information [here](#).

Only drinks in bottles or covered containers are allowed. No food is allowed at the tables during play. You are welcome to bring food and eat before the game starts.

Apple DBC will be closed January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> for County Holidays and on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for the Lone Star Regional.



## Bridge Academy of West Houston

### Mentor/Mentee

Our monthly Mentor/Mentee game is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. However in January it will be on the second Tuesday.

*January 9<sup>th</sup> - Mentor/Mentee*

If you have not signed up and would like to participate please contact our coordinator Bert Onstott by clicking [here](#).

Mentees must have fewer than 300 masterpoints and Mentors greater than 300 points.

### Future Life Masters and 8 is enough Swiss Teams

Our Future Life Masters (FLM) and 8 is enough Swiss Teams games are held once a month on a Sunday at 1:30 p.m. People really enjoy the Swiss Teams. In December we had a record turnout of 18 teams! For help in getting teammates contact:

Linda McReynolds @ (713) 819-7812 [lindamcreynolds@comcast.net](mailto:lindamcreynolds@comcast.net)

*January 14<sup>th</sup> - FLM & 8 is enough Swiss Teams*

The stratifications are:

- Level 1** - 0-1000 masterpoints (1)
- Level 2** - 1000-3000 masterpoints (2)
- Level 3** - 3000+ masterpoints (3)

For example one Level 3, two Level 2 and one Level 1 players total 8 as would four Level 2 players. Another example would be three Level 2 and one Level 1 players whose team total is 7 and it is OK to be less than 8.

### Mini-lesson

Before each Wednesday game there is a mini-lesson beginning around 10:00 a.m. taught by Joe Quinn.

### Game Schedule

Due to a 220% increase in rental cost our table entry fees have increased from \$5.00 to \$7.00.

**Tuesday - Mentor/Mentee**  
**Wednesday - Open & 299'er**  
**Thursdays - Invitational**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday - Future Life Masters & Swiss Teams**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Arabia Shriners Center**  
**10510 Harwin Dr.**

- \$7.00 per person
- Coffee & Snacks are provided

- Jennifer Breihan, John Herzer and Tom Jahnke directors

### Game Calendar

Wed – Jan 3	Junior Fund	Thu – Jan 11	Junior Fund
Thu – Jan 4	Junior Fund	Sun – Jan 14	Junior Fund
Tue – Jan 9	Junior Fund	Wed – Jan 17	Junior Fund
Wed – Jan 10	Charity	Thu – Jan 18	Junior Fund
		Wed – Jan 31	Junior Fund

### Need a Partner?

Contact Linda or Tom Martinsen at 713-398-4907 [martinsens@comcast.net](mailto:martinsens@comcast.net).



## Bridge Club of Houston

Please consult our monthly calendar online: [BCOH Calendar](#).

**BCOH: Online Choose Houston** - Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m.

**BBO - Mentor/Mentee Games:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (**Protege should invite and pay for game of mentor.**) Contact Mike Linkins if you have any questions: [mlinkins@swbell.net](mailto:mlinkins@swbell.net).

**BCOH Open Games (Face-2-Face):**  
Monday: 11:55 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:30 a.m.

**\*\*\*\*1:00 p.m. Saturday game every weekend\*\*\*\***  
\*\*\*\*Please note the time change.\*\*\*\*

Saturday F2F 299er and Open games - check BCOH [website](#) for details, potlucks and points each week.

### SAVE THE DATES:

Open Swiss Teams - January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. (**Register at the club.**)

**Mentor/Mentee F2F:** January 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Judy Cupps at [judy\\_n\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:judy_n_al@yahoo.com) by phone 713-320-5592 or Bob Zeigler@713-829-6928. Also contact them with any questions.

### TUESDAY TIDBITS

Build a solid foundation with Julie Halperin, Diamond Life Master and ACBL Teacher. Enjoy a free lesson from 9:30-10:10 a.m. Game to follow begins at 10:30 a.m. We will set up partnerships for those who need it. Text Julie at 713-857-8004 with questions or concerns. **Lessons are open to all.**

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Pizza Friday! Enjoy a free pizza lunch

**Annual Meeting:** Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> Election of officers. Potluck lunch at noon with games to begin at 1:00 p.m. New board members will be announced.

**"TWENTY TABLE SATURDAY":** Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> Lunch will be provided. Extra points will be awarded. Prizes given for section winners as well as other random giveaways. No partner. No problem we will match you up. Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. with both Open and 299ers games beginning at 1:00 p.m.

BCOH will be *closed* January 22<sup>nd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> for Houston Lone Star Regional.

# CHOOSE HOUSTON BASIC SCHEDULE - BBO ONLINE GAMES

Online Games for all levels every day! These dates will change if the ACBL has approved special games online so please check the Bridge Club of Houston and Clear Lake Bridge Club for updates.

Playing online? CHOOSE HOUSTON!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 AM	<i>Monthly, usually second Sat; hand review after the game →</i>					<b>FLM 0-20</b>	<i>flm174.org</i>
10:00 AM							
10:10 AM							
11:50 AM							
12:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:05 PM						<b>FLM 0-50</b>	
						<i>↓ First and third Mondays only. Visit <a href="http://www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh">www.bridgewebs.com/bcoh</a> for details</i>	
7:00 PM	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Open</b>		<b>Open</b>			

*Check the club and FLM websites for the most up-to-date information.*

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## Clear Lake Bridge Club

January we will have our normal game schedule except during the Lone Star Regional when we will be closed so everyone can participate. Check the schedule below:

Weekly Game Schedule:

Open Games: Monday - Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 a.m., Thursday at 2:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

0-299 Games: Monday at 2:00 p.m.

0-199 Games: Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

0-749 Games: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

Swiss Teams: Sunday at 1:00 p.m. December 11<sup>th</sup> is 8 is Enough. The B players' upper limit is 2000 - 2500 masterpoints. We ask that anyone interested in playing in any of the Sunday afternoon Team Games to please register before you come so that the director can have the set up done on time.

*Please arrive no later than 15 minutes before the game start times.*

Game table fee is \$6.00 for members, \$7.00 for guests.

Bridge Labs (Supervised Play):

Sunday and Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - New!

Bridge Lab table fee is \$8.00.

Our Mentor/Mentee game at on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. For more information and to submit a contact form, visit the [CLBC Mentor/Mentee site](#).

Due to the costs involved, the Mentor/Mentee game is the one game where we do not invite visitors. We certainly appreciate having visitors at any of the other games!

We are kicking off our 2024 quarterly Donuts, Lesson and Bridge program on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The lesson starts at 9:15 a.m.. Rick Stell will be recapping the lessons from 2023.



Check out [www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education](http://www.clearlakebridgeclub.org/bridge-education) for new classes offered in 2024.

Reminder: If you haven't paid your annual dues, you won't get to vote at the February annual meeting!

Happy New Year to all and may everyone achieve a rank or two this year.

Bobbie Moutz  
2nd Vice President  
281-546-9199  
[natcolemed@comcast.net](mailto:natcolemed@comcast.net)

P.S.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).



## CYPRESS NORTHWEST DBC & KATY DBC

**Cypress NW DBC** meets at the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd, Cypress, TX, and games are played every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 11:30 a.m., with sign-up beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Games are \$3.

**Katy DBC** meets every Wednesday. Sign-in starts at 11:00 a.m., and the game begins at 11:30 a.m. The club meets at the Steve Radack Community Center - 18650 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77084.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are provided. Regular games are \$3.

For more information, contact Jim Warren at **832/851-4745** or [jwarren760@gmail.com](mailto:jwarren760@gmail.com) or visit our [website](#).

### **CLUB OWNER RETIRING - BRIDGE CLUBS FOR SALE**

Cypress Northwest DBC  
Meets Tuesday and Thursday at Weekley Community Center

Katy DBC  
Meets Wednesday at Radack Community Center

Will sell both or separately.  
If interested please contact  
Jim Warren  
832-851-4745  
[jwarren7602gmail.com](mailto:jwarren7602gmail.com)



## Fort Bend Duplicate Bridge Club

### **Open Games Tuesday**

Arabia Shrine Center  
10510 Harwin Dr.  
Houston, TX 77036

Please arrive by 10:15 a.m. Games starts at 10:30 a.m.  
Due to rent increases, our entry fee is going from \$6.00 to \$7.00 beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>.

- We use Bridge Mate II Bridge pads.

- At least 36 upgraded games are held each year.
- Hand records are available after every game.
- Our players are a nice balance of friendly A, B and C players.
- Coffee and substantive snacks are provided.
- All games are fully sanctioned by the ACBL.
- Results available immediately.
- Fully qualified and experienced directors.

WE WILL BE OPEN ON JANUARY 2, 2024.

**CALLING AHEAD WILL FACILITATE STARTING GAMES ON TIME.  
CONTACT:**

John Eric Watson  
[ewat2004@aol.com](mailto:ewat2004@aol.com)  
832 287 9107



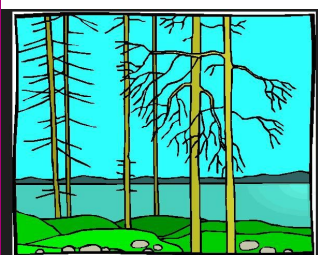
## KINGWOOD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

### Games:

Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345. Entries are still \$2 and \$3 for upgraded games.

On Thursday morning, Bill Riley will be giving a short 20-30 minute presentation on various topics, conventions, etc., starting at 9:20 a.m. A schedule of topics will be published shortly. Coffee is available.

For information, contact any of the following:  
Jim Simmons at (281)913-0441 or [jrsimmons2102@gmail.com](mailto:jrsimmons2102@gmail.com).  
Bill Riley at (832)289-3833 or [ichibanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:ichibanbill@yahoo.com).  
Kingwood Community Center Phone: (281) 348-2570  
Or Visit our [website](#).



## LAKE CONROE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

**January 2024**

Our Bridge Club is a very welcoming and friendly Club. We have players from all levels, so all duplicate players will feel comfortable. We would like to invite you and your bridge friends to join us every Friday.

We begin playing at 10:30 a.m. The game fee is \$5.00. We always offer complimentary snacks, sweet and savory, and coffee and iced tea. Please bring your lunch as we have microwaves for heating and refrigerators for keeping your food cold.

Our games are played in the Fellowship Room at April Sound Church, located at 67 1/2 April Wind Dr. S, Montgomery. There is easy access from Hwy 105 into the church parking lot.

No Partner?? No worries! Call Gerry Earnest, 936-447-6958, and she will do her best to find you a partner.

**We look forward to seeing you on Friday's at LCDBC and invite you to join us at the table for a great day of bridge.**

Penny Grassedonio  
Club Manager

832-361-4577  
[czthdaypjg@gmail.com](mailto:czthdaypjg@gmail.com)  
[website](#)

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## LONE STAR BRIDGE CLUB

Lone Star Bridge Club (LSBC) in Conroe, Texas, plays at St Paul Global Methodist Church, 1100 Semands Drive, Conroe; the church is located within easy access from Interstate 45. Directions to our game may be found on our [website](#).

Weekly OPEN games are Mondays at 11:45 a.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. All games are stratified.

We provide Coffee, bottled water, and only individually wrapped snacks.

Our games are **always** \$5.00.

We are open all month for Monday and Thursday regularly scheduled games. This includes Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, *and* during the Lone Star Regional.

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. - Monthly birthday party for our players with January birthdays

Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. - Monthly bridge game with FREE PIZZA for lunch

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. - Jeff Kroll's free lesson. Game starts at 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10: 30 a.m. - Mentor/Mentee game

BRIDGE LESSONS on the 2/1 Bidding System will begin on February 20<sup>th</sup>, for four Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to Noon, followed by supervised play to practice the subject of the lesson. The class will be taught by Club Manager and Director Linda Sutton. For more information and to enroll please contact Linda Sutton at [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com), or 936-443-3600.

If you would like to play and need a partner, please contact our partnership chairperson, Sandra Maalouf, at 936-597-8756 or [smaalouf@icloud.com](mailto:smaalouf@icloud.com).

For more information, contact Linda Sutton, Club Manager at [lindasutton212@gmail.com](mailto:lindasutton212@gmail.com).

Please visit our website by clicking [here](#).

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## PEBBLE CREEK DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Face-to-face games are held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. For further information, please contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).

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## SPRING BRANCH DUPLICATE



## CLUB

Games are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas. Located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Wirt Road and Westview in the Spring Branch area.

Regular games are \$1/person. Totally non-profit in accordance with County rules.

Manager & Director  
John Herzer  
737-287-7888  
[johncherzer@gmail.com](mailto:johncherzer@gmail.com)  
[website](#)



## STAR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Games are on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am and are **now \$5** per person.

You must have a partner.

For more info, contact Richard Duble at 979-324-8421 or [richard.duble@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.duble@yahoo.com) or visit our [website](#).



## Contributors



### Did You Know about Slam Invite?

BY **Thomas Rush**

This hand is from the recent Atlanta Fall Nationals of the ACBL. It's interesting on a couple levels - auction and play. It came up in the 0-10,000 Fast Pairs, second session of the first day.

Dealer is East and passes. As south, you hold:

♠A Q 10 4 ♥Q 4 ♦A Q 10 ♣K 9 8 2

You are playing 14+ to 17 NT.

Nice hand! If the ♥Q weren't doubleton, you might consider it too strong to open 1NT because of the strong intermediate cards and the nice honor combinations - but you choose to take the conservative course and open 1NT. The auction proceeds:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT

Pass 2♦\*      Pass 2♥\*\*  
 Pass 4♥      Pass ?

\* Hearts

\*\* You only have two hearts, so despite the maximum-strength hand, you must bid 2♥.

What does partner's sequence mean? If you and your partner haven't discussed this sequence, it's an important auction to define in your bidding structure.

First, North must have a six-card (or longer) heart suit. With just five hearts and game values, North would transfer, and then rebid 3NT (which you would pass with a doubleton heart, or pull to 4♥ with three or four). But North set hearts as trump, and since you could have only two, North must have at least six hearts to know that there is an eight-card fit.

Second, had North merely wanted to play in four hearts a *Texas Transfer* (a jump to 4♦ to transfer to hearts, or a jump to 4♥ to transfer to spades) would be used. These bids show at least six cards in responder's suit and game values, and opener *must* complete the transfer. Since opener has no choice but to complete the transfer, and responder can then choose to pass or bid on, responder is the absolute captain, while opener is but a puppet.

Contrast this with the auction at our table: North bids 2♦ as a transfer to hearts, then rebids 4♥. This allows South the option to bid again. One basic principle of bidding is that you shouldn't have two sequences that mean the same thing (there aren't nearly enough bids to describe all possible hands, and giving up even one to a duplicate meaning is terribly wasteful), so experts define the Jacoby Transfer-then-jump-to-four sequence as a "mild" slam invitation - not forcing, but asking partner to bid to slam if their hand is near perfect. With that in mind, let's evaluate opener's (South) hand (repeated here):

♠A Q 10 4 ♥Q 4 ♦A Q 10 ♣K 9 8 2

First, it's 17 HCP, top of our range. It's got great intermediates, and honors in combination (this hand would be significantly weaker without the two tens, or even without the ♣9 8). The only possible flaw is that it only has two hearts; but it has a key honor (♥Q), and responder must have at least six hearts on this auction (else North would have rebid 3NT, not 4♥).

Looking at your hand, you expect partner to have something like ♥AKxxxx and either the pointed kings (spades and diamonds), or the ♣A with either the ♣Q or a pointed King because North is mildly inviting slam. Those hands are about 13 HCP and have the trick-taking potential opposite a hand like your hand to consider slam (but no interest opposite a "bad" 17 HCP). Given that, you take the invitation and bid 6♥.

The opening lead was the ♣J and this somewhat disappointing dummy is tabled:

Dir: East	North
Vul: None	♠6 5 3
	♥A K J 9 7 6
	♦9 8
	♣A 6
	♣J
	South
	♠A Q 10 4
	♥Q 4
	♦A Q 10
	♣K 9 8 2

So, I was declarer (South) and I sure wish partner had a bit more. My thought at the table was, "Oh, geez, I've got so many holes here!" Regardless, I'm in the contract I'm in, how am I going to come to 12 tricks?

I've got six hearts, two clubs, and the two pointed aces (♠A, ♦A) for 10 top tricks. I can hope that both kings are onside (spades and diamonds) to get me to 12; that is a 25% chance (the ♠K is onside half the time, and of that 50%, the ♦K is also onside half the time, so *both* finesses 'work' half of half the time, or one in four times, 25%).

I can improve these odds by finessing against the ♠K and ♠J and the ♦K - taking three finesses and making the contract if two of the finesses work - that's a 50% shot, so twice as good as finessing against the kings alone.

Can I do better than 50%? Yes! I have a total of seven spades between the two hands, thus the defenders have six. If I finesse in spades first and only one of the ♠K or ♠J is onside, there's a chance that the outstanding spades

are split 3-3, in which case I can use my 4th spade to pitch one of dummy's two diamonds and not care about the  $\heartsuit K$ . This idea seems to be about a 52% chance (I make the hand if both spades are onside (25%) plus if (either the  $\spadesuit K$  or  $\spadesuit J$  is onside) AND (the suit splits 3-3), which I compute as 75% for one or both spade honors onside, times 36% that the suit is 3-3, or 27%. 25% plus 27% is 52%). *Phew!*

The point is to always think about setting up your long suit when it's five cards or more, and sometimes you can even do that when you have four cards opposite three!

There are some minor additional chances in the club suit if you note that you have the  $\clubsuit A K 9 8$  in your possession, and the  $\clubsuit J$  was led. Maybe the  $\clubsuit Q$  or  $\clubsuit J T$  are doubleton and you can establish your  $\clubsuit 9$  or  $\clubsuit 8$  for a diamond pitch?

Are there any other chances? Why, I'm glad you asked because there's one very important chance. Look - I'm lazy at the table. I'd much rather my opponents do my work for me if I can get them to - particularly when it increases my chances of success... and this hand is a perfect example of doing that through an endplay. It's a bit complicated but follow along to see how you can work to really maximize your chances by taking advantage of all your opportunities!

Look at the spots - the perfect tenaces (*at least two high honor cards of the same suit but missing the one in between*) in spades and diamonds! If I can eliminate clubs and draw trump (in three rounds, I hope) and then take a finesse in either diamonds or spades, *even if the finesse loses, LHO will be forced to give up a trick when then on lead!*

Here's the position I want to get to, with the lead in dummy (North):

North  
 $\spadesuit 6 5 3$   
 $\heartsuit J 9$   
 $\diamondsuit 9 8$   
 $\clubsuit$

South  
 $\spadesuit A Q 10 4$   
 $\heartsuit$   
 $\diamondsuit A Q 10$   
 $\clubsuit$

If I lead a spade from dummy and play the  $\spadesuit 10$  if RHO plays low, what can LHO do if the  $\spadesuit J$  wins? A diamond return eliminates my diamond loser directly (and means I'm on the 75% chance of needing just one of two spade honors to be onside), and a spade both eliminates my spade loser and may help set up my fourth spade for a diamond pitch. It's even better if LHO wins the  $\spadesuit K$ ; the return of either pointed suit gives me my 12th trick.

### Conclusion

Did you know about the slam invite that North's 2 $\diamondsuit$ -then-4 $\heartsuit$  showed? Did you think about eliminating clubs so that you could try to endplay LHO, or did your thinking stop at "I can draw trump and hope some of the finesses work"?

You might wonder how things worked out at the table. Better than I had any right to expect, as it turns out. I won the  $\clubsuit A$  in dummy and then led to my  $\clubsuit K$ , noticing that LHO played the  $\clubsuit 10$ ! Now I strongly suspect that the initial club holding was  $\clubsuit J T$  opposite  $\clubsuit Q 7 xxx$ , and I was ecstatic! If LHO started with a doubleton club, that suit was already eliminated from West's hand; I could draw trump and lead a spade to the  $\spadesuit 10$  for a delicious endplay.

On top of that good fortune, when I led a spade toward my hand, the  $\spadesuit K$  popped up - it turned out that RHO (East) had been dealt  $\spadesuit K J$  doubleton of spades:

$\spadesuit K J \heartsuit 10 8 2 \diamondsuit 4 3 2 \clubsuit Q 7 5 4 3$

As a bonus, since I'd counted out LHO's hand as starting with four spades, two hearts, five diamonds, and two clubs, I knew it was safe at trick 12 to lead a diamond to my  $\diamondsuit Q$ . If LHO (West) had the  $\diamondsuit K$ , it had only it and another diamond left, so I would score my  $\diamondsuit A$  no matter what.

Being in 6 $\heartsuit$  making was worth 96%. You can play through this hand yourself if you load it into a teaching table on BBO - the link is <http://tinyurl.com/yksbckac>

Thomas Rush is a regular contributor to the newsletter, unit 174 board member and a bridge teacher who lives in the Houston, Texas area and teaches across North America using the internet and online bridge. His specialty is coaching partnerships to the next level of bridge: making sure your agreements and understandings are synchronized so that you get the maximum results when you play together. If you'd like to take your personal game or your partnership to the next level, contact him at [PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com), or 832-228-7835.

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## In Memoriam

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\* Mary Lou Fowler, Houston

\* Life Master

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## From the Editor



Thank you to all of the people who contribute to the Newsletter. It takes a team of fellow bridge players to bring this information to you. Unit 174 runs on volunteers' energy.

*If you are interested in volunteering for Unit 174 events and activities, please contact Karen Nussbaum, Unit 174 Board President - [Karenunit174@gmail.com](mailto:Karenunit174@gmail.com).*

If you would like to have your club information or an article of interest published, or if you have a bridge accomplishment for which you are proud and would like to share in the Unit 174 Newsletter, please send your name, phone, email, and subject title to [unit174news@gmail.com](mailto:unit174news@gmail.com).

Evvie Gilbert  
Editor  
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